

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 16987

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PROP, UR
SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS LINKAGE OF SHCHARANSKIY AND
FILATOV

REF: MOSCOW 16567

SUMMARY: JULY 19 PRAVDA ARTICLE AGAIN LINKS SHCHARANSKIY
AND FILATOV, ACCUSING THEM OF ESSENTIALLY SAME CRIMES.
IT ATTRIBUTES STRONG WESTERN REACTION TO
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TRIALS TO FACT THAT IMPERIALIST AGENTS WERE CAUGHT RED-
HANDED, BUT AGAIN DECLINES TO MAKE SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS
AGAINST U.S. OR OTHER WESTERN NATIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRAVDA JULY 19 RUNS AN ARTICLE BY V. BOL'SHAKOV,
WHICH, LIKE UNSIGNED ARTICLE DISCUSSED REFTTEL, LINKS
SHCHARANSKIY AND FILATOV ESPIONAGE CASES. BASIC THESIS

OF THIS PIECE, ENTITLED "CONCERNING A NOISY CAMPAIGN", IS THAT WHENEVER IMPERIALIST AGENTS ARE CAUGHT RED-HANDED, ANTI-SOVIET PROPAGANDA INCREASES. FILATOV AND

SHCHARANSKIY WERE SUCH AGENTS, REASONING GOES, CAPTURED AND CONVICTED FOR THEIR CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED CRIMES. WEST HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORED FILATOV CASE, SINCE IT WAS UNABLE TO FIND ANY GROUNDS ON WHICH TO BASE A CAMPAIGN. FACTS IN SHCHARANSKIY CASE DID NOT DIFFER IN ESSENCE FROM THOSE IN FILATOV CASE. SHCHARANSKIY ALSO WORKED FOR A FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE. HOWEVER, HE DID SO UNDER THE GUISE OF STRIVING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, WHICH HAS BEEN USED AS AN EXCUSE FOR AN UNPRECEDENTED ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN.

2. ARTICLE CONTAINS UNUSUAL ADMISSION THAT THIS ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN ORGANIZED BY WESTERN REACTIONARY CIRCLES HAS "ALAS, DRAWN IN REPRESENTATIVES OF A FEW DEMOCRATIC ORGANIZATIONS." THIS IS FIRST ADMISSION, OBLIQUE THOUGH IT MAY BE, WE HAVE SEEN IN SOVIET PRESS THAT WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES AND OTHER LEFTISTS HAVE ALSO CONDEMNED SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL.

3. AUTHOR ALSO TAKES ON THOSE WHO HAVE CONDEMNED CURRENT TRIALS FROM POINT OF VIEW OF HELSINKI AGREEMENT. HE ARGUES THAT CURRENT ANTI-SOVIET CAMPAIGN CONFIDENTIAL

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IS ITSELF A VIOLATION OF HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AS WELL AS THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI, WHICH SEEKS DETENTE, THE GROWTH OF MUTUAL FAITH AND UNDERSTANDING. THE SOVIET UNION, BOL'SHAKOV CONTENTS, HAS STRICTLY OBSERVED THE HELSINKI AGREEMENT AND DONE MORE TO IMPLEMENT IT THAN THE WESTERN COUNTRIES. THE AGREEMENT CANNOT BE USED, HE CONCLUDES, TO JUSTIFY INTERFERENCE IN THE SOVIET UNION'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS, WHICH WILL BE DECIDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LAWS.

4. COMMENT: BOL'SHAKOV ARTICLE, LIKE ITS PREDECESSOR (REFTEL) EXPLICITLY LINKS FILATOV AND SHCHARANSKIY CASES IN BLATANT ATTEMPT AT ESTABLISHING GUILT BY ASSOCIATION. CURRENT PIECE, HOWEVER, SEEMS TO ASSUME THAT READERS HAVE SOME FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE OF WESTERN REACTION TO SHCHARANSKIY TRIAL, AND THUS SEEKS TO PROVIDE RATIONALE FOR EXISTENCE OF SUCH A STRONG REACTION.

5. SIGNIFICANTLY, THIS ARTICLE, LIKE OTHER PRESS COVERAGE OF SHCHARANSKIY AND FILATOV TRIALS, REFRAINS FROM SPECIFIC ACCUSATIONS AGAINST U.S. OR OTHER

WESTERN COUNTRIES, AND AVOIDS ISSUE OF WHETHER SHCHARANSKIY WAS A CIA AGENT. AS IN OTHER RECENT SOVIET PIECES, HE IS LINKED INSTEAD WITH "MILITARY INTELLIGENCE". ARTICLE DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO CIA OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES IN "LITERATURNAYA GAZETA" JULY 19, WHILE NOTING THAT MAJOR CIA OBJECTIVES INCLUDE "WIDENING THE COLLECTION OF CLANDESTINE INFORMATION ON MILITARY SECRETS, MILITARY AND MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL OBJECTIVES, INCREASING THE ACTIVITIES OF DISSIDENTS," MAKES NO MENTION OF SHCHARANSKIY, DESPITE FACT THAT ALLEGED COLLECTION OF MILITARY SECRETS CONSTITUTED CHIEF TREASON CHARGE AGAINST HIM.

6. ON SHCHARANSKIY HIMSELF, HOWEVER, BOL'SHAKOV IS
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UNRELENTING, PROVIDING DETAILS ON HIS SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES AND FULLY SUPPORTING "JUSTICE" OF SENTENCE. IF ANYTHING, EXPLICIT COMARISON WITH FILATOV IMPLIES THAT SHCHARANSKIY'S SENTENCE WAS LIGHT FROM SOVIET POINT OF VIEW. MATLOCK

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